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WITNESS: ALLEGED SPY ASKED HER TO GET 'TOP SECRET' DOCUMENT
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A WOMAN WHO BLEW THE WHISTLE ON AN ALLEGED SPY FOR EAST GERMANY TOLD A JURY THE MAN RECEIVED MILITARY INFORMATION FROM HER EX-HUSBAND AND TRIED TO RECRUIT HER FOR ESPIONAGE WORK WITH PROMISES OF GOOD PAY.

MOLLY STOREY WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRST WITNESS AS THE TRIAL OF ERNST LUDWIG FORBRICH, 43, OPENED MONDAY BEFORE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE BEN KRENTZMAN. SHE TOLD THE 12 JURORS THAT FORBRICH, A WEST GERMAN AUTO MECHANIC, ASKED HER TO OBTAIN SECRET DOCUMENTS.

"ANYTHING WITH A NATO TOP SECRET STAMP WAS BEST," SHE QUOTED FORBRICH AS SAYING. "HE SAID SPECIFICALLY, LIKE OVERLAYS FOR MAPS."

FORBRICH IS ACCUSED OF TRYING TO BUY A CLASSIFIED U.S. MILITARY SECRET TO DELIVER TO EAST GERMANY AND WITH CONSPIRING TO PASS THE MATERIAL TO FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

HE HAS BEEN HELD WITHOUT BOND SINCE HIS ARREST MARCH 29 IN NEARBY CLEARWATER. IF CONVICTED, HE FACES A MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF LIFE IN PRISON.

FEDERAL AGENTS, WHO BELIEVE FORBRICH IS A CAREER SPY, CLAIMED HE MADE A DOWN PAYMENT ON A SECRET DEFENSE DOCUMENT TO AN FBI AGENT POSING AS A U.S. ARMY OFFICER FROM MACILL AIR FORCE BASE HERE. THE DOCUMENT WAS IDENTIFIED IN AN INDICTMENT AS A DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REGISTER OF INTELLIGENCE PUBLICATIONS.

BUT DEFENSE ATTORNEY RON CACCIATORE TOLD THE JURY THAT FORBRICH CAME TO THIS COUNTRY ON VACATION AND WAS SET UP BY THE FBI, WHO "LAID BEFORE HIM AND PUT IN HIS LAP" A DOCUMENT THAT HE CLAIMED "WOULD NOT CAUSE INJURY" TO THE UNITED STATES.

ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY GEORGE FRAGOS SAID MRS. STOREY, EX-WIFE OF RETIRED MAJ. CHARLES "CHUCK" STOREY, CONTACTED THE FBI. "SHE WANTED REVENGE ON HER HUSBAND WHO WAS DIVORCING HER," FRAGOS SAID.

MRS. STOREY TESTIFIED THAT HER HUSBAND HAD SOLD INFORMATION TO FORBRICH SINCE THE 1970s, WHEN HE WAS STATIONED IN WEST GERMANY AT COOKS BARRACKS.